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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 9 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in August 1997.

2 August 1997

At 1045 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba' and Arabsalim, the Kafr Fila - Jba' wadi, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Zahrani River in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by intensive low-altitude overflights of the area by Israeli warplanes.

At 1230 hours outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm and Zibqin, Tyre district, came under Israeli artillery fire.

3 August 1997

At 2200 hours Israeli helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude and were met with ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

4 August 1997

At 0130 hours Israeli helicopters tried to set down an Israeli force in Wadi al-Kafur. Clashes in which weapons of all types were used took place between the Israeli force and men of the Lebanese national resistance, and they stopped at 0400 hours. The force withdrew, leaving behind an explosive charge

that was detonated at 0530 hours, killing five persons. The overflights of the Nabatiyah area by Israeli helicopters continued until the clashes ended.

5 August 1997

At 1025 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Western Bekaa area, and at 1030 hours they attacked outlying areas of Libbaya and Yuhmur and the Shahba' hill. Areas along the Litani River also came under Israeli artillery fire. The shelling and the overflights stopped at 1200 hours. In the attacks, two persons were killed and four were wounded.

At 1845 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar, the Kafr Fila - Jba' wadi and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

An explosive charge exploded on the Kafr Hunah road as Ziyad Ahmad Jahjah was passing in his car. He was killed.

7 August 1997

At 0730 hours the town of Jun, Shuf district, came under artillery fire from Lahad militia positions and one person was wounded.

At 0745 hours Jba', Kafr Fila and Kafr Tibnit came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0800 hours Kafr Milki and its outlying areas came under Israeli artillery fire.

8 August 1997

At 1330 hours outlying areas of Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1500 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

At 1825 hours the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks and its environs in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under heavy sniper fire from Israeli forces.

At 1900 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Na'imah hills south of Beirut.

At 2145 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Bra'shit and Ayta al-Jabal came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1400 hours an Israeli artillery shell fell on the bridge leading to Ayn al-Tinah in the Western Bekaa. A fire broke out that consumed some 3,000 square metres of olive and fig trees.

9 August 1997

At 2115 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Janta in Ba'labakk district.

10 August 1997

At 1600 hours outlying areas of Jba' and Ayn Bu Siwar came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by helicopters, which directed machine-gun fire at the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills. They were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1415 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Ba'labakk and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

At 2350 hours Israeli combat helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area and were met with ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

11 August 1997

Between 1000 and 1430 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

12 August 1997

At 1030 hours Israeli warplanes made intensive overflights of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, carrying out a number of mock attacks.

At 1715 hours Bra'shit and outlying areas of Tibnin, Safad al-Battikh and Shaqra came under Israeli artillery fire, and some 15 shells of various calibre fell in the area.

At 1430 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitude.

13 August 1997

At 1020 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, carrying out a number of mock attacks.

14 August 1997

At 0930 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Nabatiyah at high altitude.

At 1245 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Ayta al-Jabal, Haris and Haddatha in Bint Jubayl district came under Israeli artillery fire, with some 30 shells of various calibre falling in the area.

At 1330 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Arabsalim and Ayn Bu Siwar in Nabatiyah district came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by Israeli warplanes.

At 1600 hours security agents of the Lahad militia expelled the family of Muhammad al-Gharmati from the border-strip area by way of the Kafr Tibnit crossing.

15 August 1997

At 1030 hours outlying areas of Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1050 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haris and Haddatha in Bint Jubayl district came under Israeli artillery fire.

16 August 1997

At 1820 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Luwayzah and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Na'imah hill and fired two rockets. A second attack followed at 2010 hours.

17 August 1997

At 1330 hours Mazra'at al-Hamra, outlying areas of Zawtar al-Sharqiyuah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and areas along the Litani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

18 August 1997

At 0530 hours the abandoned Army barracks and its environs in Nabatiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1115 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitude.

At 1215 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Sa'diyat, Damur and Na'imah areas.

At 1230 hours an explosive charge was detonated on the Jazzin - Kafr Hunah - Marj Uyun road at the northern approach to Kafr Hunah. It had been planted on the left shoulder of the road, and the explosion killed two children, Jan As'ad Nasr and his sister.

At 1315 hours outlying areas of Jba' and Ayn Bu Siwar and the Jba' - Kafr Fila wadi came under Israeli artillery bombardment from the occupied border strip.

At 1320 hours Kafr Milki came under Israeli artillery bombardment, and at 1600 hours the shelling was extended to include outlying areas of Anqun.

At 1400 hours the town of Jun and its environs in Shuf district came under artillery fire from Lahad militia forces.

At 1415 hours Sidon came under Israeli artillery fire. It stopped at 1530 hours after some seven artillery shells had fallen. Seven persons were killed and 30 were wounded.

At 1610 hours Jazzin came under artillery fire from a point south-west of the town. One person was killed and two were wounded in the shelling.

19 August 1997

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, Tulin, Shaqra, Bra'shit and Sawwanah came under Israeli bombardment.

At 0745 hours outlying areas of Zibqin, Siddiqin and Jibal al-Butm came under Israeli artillery fire. From fear of the spread of shelling, 25 to 80 per cent of the civilian populations of Mansuri, Izziyah, Majdal Zun, Qulaylah, Hinniyah, Zibqin, Siddiqin, Jibal al-Butm, Qana and Buyut al-Siyad fled towards Tyre and its environs.

At 2100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Tyre at medium altitude.

At 2145 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Nabtiyah at low altitude.

At 2130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at low altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army. This continued until 2150 hours.

At 2350 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at low altitude.

20 August 1997

At 1015 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Janta, wounding 30 people.

At 1100 hours Israeli warplanes fired two rocket projectiles in the Tuffahta wadi, Jazirah locality, in Sidon district.

At 1130 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Zarut hill in Barja, Shuf district.

21 August 1997

At 1200 hours outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm, Zibqin and Siddiqin came under artillery fire. The shelling of outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm and Zibqin was renewed at 1800 hours.

Between 1210 and 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas.

At 1230 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Barja and Jiyah at low altitude.

At 1240 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps.

At 1430 hours the Jabbur pool and Abu Rashid came under Israeli artillery fire that continued until 1630 hours.

At 1842 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haddatha and Haris came under Israeli artillery fire.

22 August 1997

At 1000 hours Israeli forces expelled a family of six persons from the border strip by way of the Kafr Tibnit crossing.

At 1030 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude carrying out mock attacks.

At 1900 hours a number of Israeli artillery shells fell in outlying areas of Majdal Zun in Tyre district.

23 August 1997

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm, Zibqin and Siddiqin came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1000 hours outlying areas of Majdal Zun came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Yatar, Kafra, Haris and Haddatha came under Israeli artillery fire. Then, at 0930 hours, Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Kafra and Yatar.

At 0905 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm, while the artillery bombardment of outlying areas of Zibqin, Siddiqin and Jibal al-Butm continued.

25 August 1997

At 0615 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the environs of the abandoned Army barracks in Nabatiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1345 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Maydun and Ayn al-Tinah area in Western Bekaa district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army. The overflights of the area in question continued until 1530 hours.

At 1345 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitude and made intensive overflights of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area. They were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire, and they carried out a number of mock attacks.

At 1435 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at low altitude.

26 August 1997

At 1320 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Tyre and the nearby camps at medium altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

At 1100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at high altitude.

27 August 1997

At 1100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude.

At 1330 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude.

At 1445 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

28 August 1997

At 0900 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at medium altitude.

At 1030 hours outlying areas of Frun, Ghanduriyah, Sawwanah, Qabrikha, Majdal Silm and Tulin came under artillery bombardment.

At 1300 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Frun, Ghanduriyah, Sawwanah, Qabrikha, Majdal Silm and Tulin and then strafed the wadis with heavy-weapons fire.

At 1335 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Ayn Bu Siwar. The attack targeted an unoccupied three-storey building.

At 1515 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas.

At 0600 hours outlying areas of Yuhmur and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Mazra'at al-Hamra came under Israeli artillery fire.

30 August 1997

At 2205 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Na'imah hills and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 2200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Nabatiyah at high altitude.

At 2245 hours the vicinity of the abandoned Army barracks in Nabatiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and these fresh attacks and arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese population, which have left a number of casualties and have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes

and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative